

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Wrangell****Project Title:**

Wrangell - Commercial Passenger Vessel Berthing and Power Upgrades

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,250,000**House District: 2 - A**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Project to design and implement mooring, berthing and power-service upgrades at the downtown docks.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$1,250,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Anticipated increases in the number and frequency of port calls in Wrangell by Commercial Passenger Vessels has made improvements to the berthing, mooring and energy capabilities essential. The project will improve the efficiency and quality of shore side support to the Cruise industry and enhance the experience of passengers.

Appropriation is \$1,250,000 of Cruise Ship Head-Tax funds for improvements to port infrastructure and cruise ship docks in Wrangell. As a coastal community, Wrangell experiences an in-flux of cruise ship and independent travelers during tourism season. The City of Wrangell has developed a redevelopment plan for the community's cruise ship dock and adjacent staging area. The plan will include extensive renovations to the commercial dock and floats. The city dock was constructed in the 1970s and is need of structural improvements to continue as a viable commercial facility. Improvements will consist of replacing pilings, installation of a protection system, and a small replacement dock to replace a summer float. In addition, the City of Wrangell is planning on redevelopment of the immediate area to provide additional staging areas and improve traffic flow. This funding will improve the city's marine infrastructure, leading to better access to the community to visitors and expanded opportunities for economic development in Wrangell.

Project Timeline:

Funding in FY09 will allow design and engineering to finish in time for the construction season next summer.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Wrangell

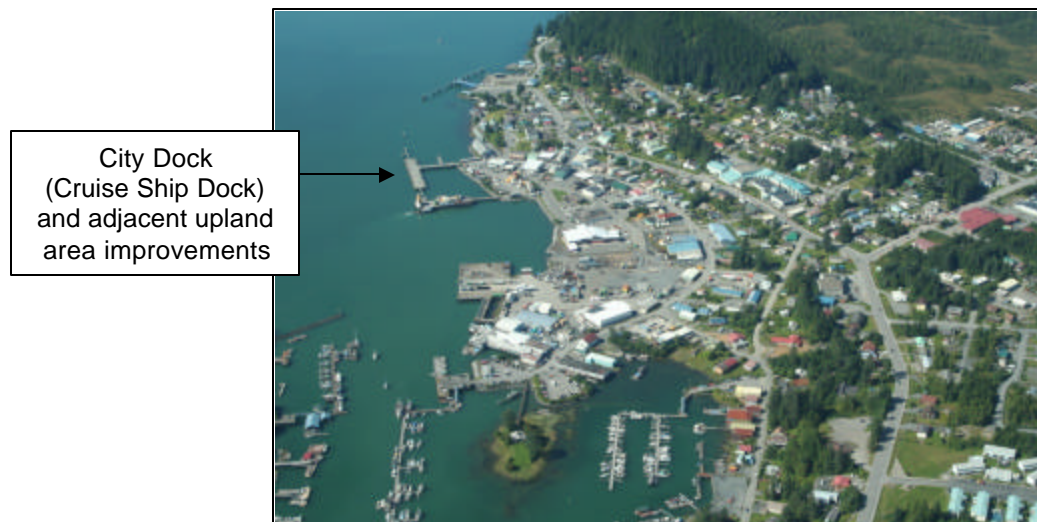
Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No

City of Wrangell's Proposed Port and Harbor Capital Improvement under the Commercial Passenger Vessel Services and Watercraft Infrastructure Appropriation

City of Wrangell Ports and Harbors have developed an upgrade and enhancement plan for the City Dock and adjacent port upland staging areas. City Dock, also known as the Cruise Ship Dock, is located on the northend of downtown adjacent to the Stikine Inn. Cruise passengers leave the ship and dock area and immediately enter into Wrangell's downtown commercial corridor. The dock and the adjacent upland are in dire need of renovation, upgrade, and enhancement to make the facility marine safe, useable for the long term, visitor friendly, and attractive.



Aerial of Downtown Wrangell and Waterfront

Proposal

Wrangell's overall redevelopment plan for the area includes more items than funding is available under this appropriation. Generally the key port infrastructure projects that are needed include: City dock major upgrades, upland improvements for traffic and pedestrian flow, upland paving, replacement of existing summer floats, new construction of additional summer floats, construction of catwalk to mooring dolphin and a Lost at Sea memorial. There is estimated \$2 million worth of total upgrades necessary for the dock alone, \$650,000 for the replacement of all three summer floats, \$800,000 for the paving of the full tour staging area and port yard as well as \$150,000 for the catwalk and another \$150,000 for the memorial and additional staging area improvements. As part of this specific appropriation however, the City proposes to use the funds toward specific dock improvements to improve the structural integrity of the dock, paving of the upland tour staging area only, and replacement of one or two of the summer floats. The exact activities will depend on a final analysis of costs with the Port's contractor.

Project Description

City Dock

City dock, is a T-shaped dock 405 feet long, with two mooring dolphins approximately 160 feet off each end of the dock, and an additional stern mooring dolphin, another 225 foot off the north end of

the dock. The dock can accommodate ships over 900 feet long, and have successfully done so in the past. It is located at the confluence of the Zimovia Strait, Sumner Strait and the Stikine River along an unprotected shoreline and the weather in the fall and winter can get very nasty and rough. City Dock was constructed in the mid 1970's, and has had periodic upgrades over the course of the last 30 years. However, an Inspection that was performed by Peratrovich, Nottingham & Drage, Inc in 2003 found that major dock upgrade work should be conducted in order to protect the dock from the elements, reinforce the dock for safety and structural integrity, and improve the long term viability and use of the dock.

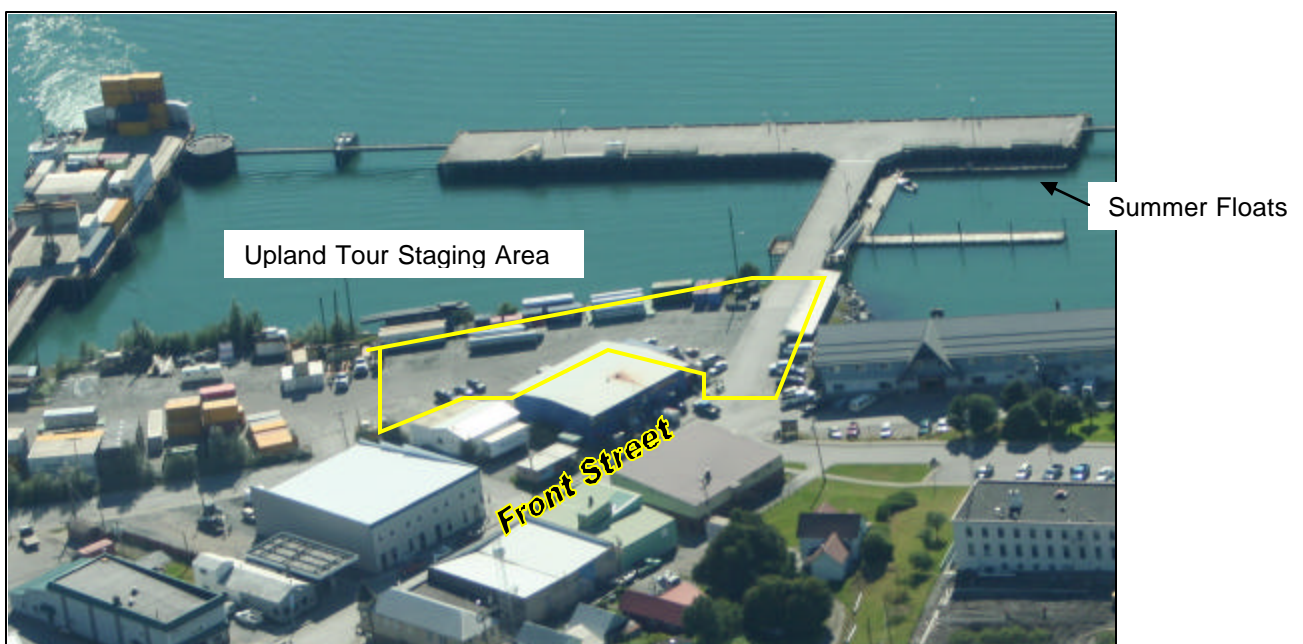
The City's proposes to upgrade the dock by installing a sacrificial anode cathodic protection system, estimated to cost \$630,000.

Additional work that needs to be completed on the dock but will be phased in, can be found in the 2003 analysis report and includes pile preparation and surface coating, repair of concrete spalls on core panels, replace broken or worn timber fender piles, replace chocks, replace certain timber piles with steel piles. The City also constructed the stern mooring dolphin in 2003-2004 specifically at the request of the Norwegian Cruise Lines to accommodate a larger vessel they planned to bring in. Not enough funds were available to construct the catwalk to the dolphin which does create safety issues for port personnel and stevedoring during the mooring process.

Summer Floats

The summer floats encompass three U-shaped floats, each 110 feet long held in place with permanent steel piling, on the inside face of the City dock. The floats accommodate small cruise ships, yachts, and fishing and excursion charters. The charter operators stage their departures from these floats and adjacent upland area to provide easy access to passengers from the cruise ships. The floats were constructed 12 to 17 years ago. They are placed in the water in late April and removed in late September to avoid the worst of the storms and rough seas that occur in this vicinity. But even in summer, daily currents and summer squalls beat the docks up with continued stress and wear and tear. The continued use and proposed expansion is critical to the enhancement of the visitor experience by providing easy, close and safe access to charters.

The City is proposing to construct one new dock to replace one of the existing summer floats. One steel dock constructed is estimated to cost \$200,000.



Upland Area

Front Street, the street that runs the length of the downtown commercial district dead ends into the City Dock. The last 200 feet before the dock, the approach and primary traffic area for passengers, vehicle and pedestrians, is broken concrete or rock fill. On dry days, the dust created from vehicles, trucks and just the dirt/rock fill is terrible, causing dust in the tour staging area and blowing into Front Street, creating a less than pleasant experience for cruise passengers. On wet days, the puddles and muddy surface of the dirt/rock fill creates an entirely other type of unpleasant experience for the cruise passenger. There is no clear traffic plan, with vehicles and pedestrians intermingling, parked cars backing up into walk ways and driving paths all creating safety issues. Blockades set up on cruise ship days minimize vehicle traffic, but tour buses, vans, and work vessels still need access to the dock area which currently consist of an undefined traffic pattern area.

The City of Wrangell is embarking on a Downtown Revitalization project in partnership with the State Department of Transportation which hopefully will alleviate some of the hazards. A conceptual design for Front Street from the Cruise Ship Dock to the Reliance Harbor was completed in 2006 and an RFP for the design engineering should be let within the month. Part of the engineering design includes design of the staging area adjacent to the City Dock (See attached Wrangell Panel). The conceptual design includes a cul de sac to delineate vehicular access, landscaping, and other aesthetic concepts to assist cruise passengers and improve the current congested mess. Other funds are available for this portion of the project. What is not available, however, and critical to the overall success of the Downtown Revitalization Project's goals, and part of the passenger safety and improved experience, are funds for the paving of the surface of the primary staging area and the full extent of the port yard. The port yard adjacent to the primary staging area is our barge loading/unloading facility and container storage, as well as the bus staging area for cruise ship passengers. Most important is the 200 – 300 feet immediately surrounding the cruise ship dock access point and highlighted in the photo above. This area gets the heaviest vehicular and pedestrian traffic so minimizing the mud and dust are very important to the area improvements.

The City is proposing to pave the tour staging area within 200 feet of the Cruise Ship dock to minimize dust generated from vehicles and the rock fill and to, provide clear delineation of pedestrian and vehicle access. Estimated cost of the paving is \$350,000.

As part of this specific appropriation under the Commercial Passenger Vessel Services and Watercraft Infrastructure Appropriation, the City proposes to use the funds toward specific dock improvements to improve the structural integrity of the dock, paving of the upland tour staging area only, and replacement of one or two of the summer floats. The exact activities will depend on a final analysis of costs with the Port's contractor.



Referenced Reports:

April 4, 2003: Wrangell City Dock Inspection, Observations, Analysis and Recommendations
By Peratrovich, Nottingham and Drage, Inc.

October 2006: Wrangell Downtown Revitalization Final Report, Conceptual Design

Reports are available from the City of Wrangell